Abstract of the Disclosure

A portal server includes a software agent configured to do summary searches for subscribers based on Internet destinations provided by the subscribers, to retrieve information from such destinations based on pre-programmed site information, and to download the summary information to the subscriber. The destinations and the nature of the information to be retrieved is pre-programmed. There is further a configuration and intitiation interface for a subscriber to set up and start a summary search. In some cases the summary searches are configured for individual clients as templates stored and retrieved at the Internet-connected server. Also in some cases retrieved information is immediately sent to the subscriber, and in other situations such information is saved at the portal to be retrieved by a subscriber at a later time. In preferred embodiments of the invention autologins are accomplished for a subscriber at Internet destinations by use of pre-stored configuration information.